

To whom it may concern,

Subject: My submission about the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

To: Members of the Finance and Administration Committee

I am employed in _____ and I wish to make a submission about the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 because it will directly impact me, my family, my colleagues and the community.

As a result of the Industrial Relations (Fair Work Act Harmonisation No. 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 I lost many valuable conditions from my Industrial Award, and many provisions that could be bargained for in enterprise bargaining were removed from me and my colleagues. For example, protections about job security and consultation about workplace change were completely removed by this legislation of the Newman government.

The impact of this for me has been the possibility of loss of income when EBA runs out and I get offered a VR. I rely upon the years of work I have completed to count towards the payout I shall receive to support my family. A new job at fifty is not likely and having a maximum fixed payout of 16 weeks is not going to support kids still schooling for long. The benefits I have accumulated through working is needed to pay outstanding bills as life does not go as planned and still in the later part of life families are still repaying loans.

The right to organise collectively to achieve better working rights and conditions is a basic human right. The Newman government undemocratically curtailed this right and as a result lost the 2015 Queensland election. At the election a majority of Queenslanders supported parties and candidates who advocated a restoration of these basic rights. Please respect the voice of Queenslanders and the rights of workers and vote to restore fairness by supporting this bill.

I urge the committee to recommend passage of this bill without delay to ensure that the rights of workers on local government are restored to them.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Shepherd
